

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original): A method for detecting L-ficolin dependent activation of the lectin pathway of complement comprising:

(a) contacting L-ficolin lectin pathway activation complex with Lipoteichoic acid (LTA) in conditions that permit specific binding thereof, and

(b) detecting complement activation.

2. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1 wherein LTA is ~~immobilised~~ immobilized on a support.

3. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein L-ficolin complex is obtained from blood.

4. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein complement activation is detected by a C3 and/or C4 cleavage assay.

5. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 4 wherein complement activation is detected by detection of a C3 and/or a C4 cleavage product.

6. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim ~~[[4 or]]~~ 5 wherein the C3 and/or C4 cleavage product is detected using a ligand specific for the cleavage product, labelled directly or indirectly with a detectable marker.

7. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 6 wherein the ligand specific for the cleavage product is an antibody or a binding fragment of an antibody.

8. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein complement activation is detected by detection of the C3 cleavage product C3b.

9. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 8 wherein the ligand is an anti-C3b antibody or a binding fragment of an anti-C3b antibody.

10. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6 wherein complement activation is detected by detection of the C4 cleavage product C4b.

11. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 10 wherein the ligand is an anti-C4b antibody or a binding fragment of an anti-C4b antibody.

12. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 6 wherein complement activation is detected by detection of the C4 cleavage product C4c.

13. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 12 wherein the ligand is an anti-C4c antibody or a binding fragment of an anti-C4c antibody.

14. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims claim~~ 6 [[to 13]] wherein the detectable marker is a fluorescent, luminescent or radioactive marker.

15. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims claim~~ 6 [[to 14]] wherein the detectable marker is selected from the group comprising alkaline phosphatase, horse radish peroxidase, biotin, europium, fluorescein isothiocyanate, a fluorescent protein or a radiolabel.

16. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims claim~~ 6 [[to 15]] wherein the detectable marker is alkaline phosphatase and the alkaline phosphatase is detected using a colorimetric substrate, ~~preferably p-nitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP).~~

17. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims claim~~ 6 [[to 15]] wherein the detectable marker is fluorescein isothiocyanate and is detected using fluorescence microscopy.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended): A method for identifying an L-ficolin abnormality comprising:
(a) contacting LTA with a solution comprising blood, serum or an extract therefrom, in conditions that permit specific binding of L-ficolin lectin pathway activation complex to LTA, and,
(b) detecting, ~~and optionally quantifying~~, specific binding of the L- ficolin complex to LTA.

21. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 20 wherein LTA is on a support.

22. (Currently amended): A method for detecting ~~and/or identifying~~ gram positive bacteria comprising:

(a) contacting a sample comprising bacteria or suspected of comprising bacteria with L-ficolin complex in conditions that permit specific binding of L-ficolin to LTA~~[[, and,]]~~; and

(b) detecting specific binding of L-ficolin complex to LTA present on gram positive bacteria.

23. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to ~~any one of claims 20 to claim~~ 22 wherein specific binding of L-ficolin complex to LTA is detected using a ligand labelled directly or indirectly with a detectable marker.

24. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 23 wherein the ligand is an antibody or a binding fragment of an antibody.

25. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 24 wherein the antibody is an antibody specific for L-ficolin or a binding fragment of an antibody specific for L-ficolin.

26. (Currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 25 wherein the antibody is GN4 or GN5 or a fragment thereof that specifically binds L-ficolin.

27. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 23 wherein the detectable marker is a fluorescent, luminescent or radioactive marker.

28. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims 23 to 27~~ claim 23 wherein the detectable marker is selected from the group comprising alkaline phosphatase, horse radish peroxidase, biotin, europium, fluorescein isothiocyanate, a fluorescent protein [[or]] and a radiolabel.

29. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 28 wherein the detectable marker is alkaline phosphatase and the alkaline phosphatase is detected using a colorimetric substrate, ~~preferably p-nitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP).~~

30. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 28 wherein the detectable marker is fluorescein isothiocyanate and is detected using fluorescence microscopy.

31. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method ~~or assay according to any one of claims of~~ claim 1 [[to 30]], wherein the method is performed in format, preferably a 96 well format.

32. (Currently amended): [[A]] The method ~~or assay according to any one of claims of~~ claim 1 [[to 31]], wherein the method is performed in a high throughput format.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit ~~according to claim 33 for~~ detecting L-ficolin dependent activation of the lectin pathway comprising:

- (a) LTA on a support;[[,]]
- (b) a purified C4 or crude C4/C3 preparation[[, and]];
- (c) a reagent or reagents for detection of a C3 and/or C4 cleavage product[[, and]];
- (d) ~~optionally~~ standard serum or purified L-ficolin/MASP complex suitable for generation of a standard curve[[, and,]]; and

(e) ~~optionally~~ instructions for use of the kit.

35. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 34 wherein a reagent for detection of a C3 and/or C4 cleavage product comprises a ligand capable of being labelled directly or indirectly with a detectable marker.

36. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 35 wherein the ligand is an antibody or a binding fragment of an antibody.

37. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 35 [[or 36]] wherein the ligand specifically binds the C3 cleavage product C3b.

38. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 35 [[to 37]] wherein the ligand specifically binds the C4 cleavage product C4b.

39. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 35 [[to 38]] wherein the ligand specifically binds the C4 cleavage product C4c.

40. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 33 for detecting L-ficolin complex comprising:

- (a) LTA ~~immobilised~~ immobilized on a support; [[, and]]
- (b) a reagent or reagents for detection of L-ficolin complex-LTA binding; [[,] and
- (c) ~~optionally~~; standard serum or purified L-ficolin/MASP complex or purified L-ficolin, suitable for generation of a standard curve[[, and]].
- (d) ~~optionally, instructions for use of the kit~~

41. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 40 wherein [[a]] the reagent for detection of L-ficolin- LTA binding comprises a ligand capable of being labelled directly or indirectly with [[a]] the detectable marker.

42. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 41 wherein the ligand is an antibody or a binding fragment of an antibody.

43. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 42 wherein the antibody or binding fragment of an antibody is specific for L-ficolin.

44. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to claim 43 wherein the antibody is GN4 or GN5 or is a binding fragment thereof that specifically binds L-ficolin.

45. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any one of claims claim 35 to 39 or claims 41 to 44~~ wherein the ligand is labelled directly with [[a]] the detectable marker.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any one of claims claim 35 to 39 or 41 to 46~~ wherein the detectable marker is a fluorescent, luminescent or radioactive marker.

48. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any one of claims claim 35 to 39 or 41 to 47~~ wherein the detectable marker is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of alkaline phosphatase, horse radish peroxidase, biotin, europium (~~e.g. for time resolved immunofluorometric assays, TRIMA~~), fluorescein isothiocyanate, a fluorescent protein [[or]] and a radiolabel.

49. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any of claims claim 35 to 39 or 41 to 48~~ wherein the detectable marker is alkaline phosphatase and ~~optionally~~ a colorimetric substrate for detection of alkaline phosphatase is provided, ~~preferably the substrate is p-nitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP).~~

50. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any of claims claim 35 to 39 or 41 to 48~~ wherein the detectable marker is fluorescein isothiocyanate.

51. (Currently amended): [[A]] The kit according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 33 [[to 50]] wherein the support is one or more wells on a multiwell plate.